

# Southern WV Accident Alert



A tree cutter was fatally injured while clearing trees in advance of a surface mining operation. The tree cutter cut a tree that had another tree wedged against it. As the tree that was being cut fell, the wedged tree also fell, striking the victim and resulting in fatal crushing injuries. This is the third tree-cutter fatality since November 2003.



## Preventive Practices:

- ✓ Adequate and thorough examinations shall be conducted and any trees deemed unsafe to cut or a “danger tree” shall be identified in a manner so all cutters will know they are not to be cut.
- ✓ Prior to cutting a tree, conduct a visual examination for possible hazards and clear away any potential obstacles that could interfere with cutting the tree.
- ✓ Select the best position from which to cut the tree and determine an escape route to use in case of an emergency.
- ✓ Each “danger tree”, such as lodged trees or snags, shall be felled or removed using mechanical or other techniques that minimize employee exposure before work is commenced in the area of the “danger tree”.

For additional information:

<http://mshanet.msha.gov/GeneralRef/30CFR.pdf>

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=FEDERAL\\_REGISTER&p\\_id=13420](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=13420)



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